<u>THE CLAIMS:</u>

While no amendments, additions or cancellations of claims are effected via this paper, this listing of claims is provided for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (Previously presented) A method of deactivating a touch screen lock in a portable electronic device comprising a touch screen and means for locking the touch screen, the method comprising:

detecting touches on predetermined contact areas on the touch screen in a given order during touch screen lock; and

deactivating the touch screen lock once said touches on the predetermined contact areas are detected.

2. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas when a touch on a predetermined contact area fails.

3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, the method comprising reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas by at least 25 percent.

4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising detecting a touch on a predetermined reset area on the touch screen during touch screen lock, and entering touch screen lock deactivation state based on the touch on the reset area.

5. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 4, the method comprising exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when the touch on the predetermined contact area fails.

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6. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 4, the method comprising exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when no touch on the contact area on the touch screen is detected within a predetermined period of time.

7. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising detecting a touch on the reset area after a touch on the predetermined contact areas.

8. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 7, the method comprising accepting the deactivation of the touch screen lock based on the detection of a touch on the predetermined contact areas and a touch on the reset area.

9. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising detecting a touch on the predetermined contact areas of the touch screen when the touch on the contact area continues for a predetermined period of time.

10. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising entering the device lock state when the touch on the contact areas occurs in a non-predetermined manner a predetermined number of times in succession.

11. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising issuing a signal when a touch on a predetermined contact area is detected.

12. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said signal is a sound, light or vibration signal.

13. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising deactivating the touch screen lock when a touch on said predetermined contact areas is detected during predetermined timeslots.

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14. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 13, the method comprising playing a predetermined sound during the touch screen lock to facilitate remembering the predetermined timeslots.

15. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising displaying one or more predetermined background images, animations or multimedia presentations on the touch screen during touch screen lock in order to facilitate remembering the predetermined contact areas.

16. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising specifying, in user profiles, the contact areas based on whose touching the touch screen lock is deactivated.

17. (Previously presented)   A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the contact areas defined in the user profile for deactivating the touch screen lock are different in different user profiles.

18. (Previously presented)   A portable electronic device comprising a touch screen and means for locking the touch screen, the device comprising means for:

  detecting touches on predetermined contact areas on the touch screen in a given order during touch screen lock; and

  deactivating the touch screen lock once said touches on the predetermined contact areas are detected.

19. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas when a touch on a predetermined contact area fails.

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20. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the device comprises means for reducing the size of the predetermined contact areas by at least 25 percent.

21. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for detecting a touch on a predetermined reset area on the touch screen during touch screen lock, and entering a touch screen lock deactivation state based on the touch on the reset area.

22. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the device comprises means for exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when a touch on the predetermined contact area fails.

23. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the device comprises means for exiting the touch screen lock deactivation state when no touch on the contact area on the touch screen is detected within a predetermined period of time after a touch on the reset area.

24. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for detecting a touch on the reset area after a touch on the predetermined contact areas.

25. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the device comprises means for accepting the deactivation of the touch screen lock based on a touch on the predetermined contact areas and a touch on the reset area.

26. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein in the device comprises means for detecting a touch on the predetermined contact areas of the touch screen when the touch on the contact area continues for a predetermined period of time.

27. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for entering a terminal lock state when a touch on the contact areas occurs in a non-predetermined manner a predetermined number of times in succession.

28. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for issuing a signal when a touch on a predetermined contact area is detected.

29. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 28, wherein said signal is a sound, light or vibration signal.

30. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for deactivating the touch screen lock when touches on said predetermined contact areas are detected during predetermined timeslots.

31. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the device comprises means for playing a predetermined sound during the touch screen lock to facilitate remembering the predetermined timeslots.

32. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for displaying one or more predetermined background images, animations or multimedia presentations on the touch screen during touch screen lock in order to facilitate remembering the predetermined contact areas.

33. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the device comprises means for specifying, in user profiles, the contact areas based on whose touching the touch screen lock is deactivated.

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34. (Previously presented)   A device as claimed in claim 33, wherein the contact areas defined in the user profile for deactivating the touch screen lock are different in different user profiles.